



Mount Rainier National Park

Sister Mountain Project

String A Volcano: Japanese Volcano Background Info

Hokkaido Islands

Tokochi-dake

Characteristics: Stratovolcano with pyroclastic flow plateau-caldera, pyroclastic cone, lava flow and small shield volcano, lava dome

Volcano #: 0808-05=

Location: Hokkaido Prefecture

Elevation: 2,077 meters, (6,814 feet)

Closest cities: Kamaikawa, Tokachi

Most recent volcanic activity: February 25 to April 19, 2004- Phreatic Eruption: steam driven explosion that can carry rocks, ash and super-heated water

Most likely volcano hazards: Pyroclastic flows, lahars, and lava flows

Another fact about this volcano: Tokachi-dake has active solfataras at each vent near the summit. In Dec 1988 through Mar 1989, small pyroclastic flows, lahar, and mud flows occurred to the extent that residents were forced to evacuate for a short period. The last major eruption on May 26th 1926 was a phreatic and vulcanian eruption. The resulting landslide and lahar caused 144 fatalities and 2 villages were buried.

Tarumai-san of Shikotsu Caldera

Characteristics: Stratovolcano on a Caldera

Location: Hokkaido Prefecture

Volcano #: 0805-04=

Elevation: 1,041 meters, (3,415 feet) and Shikotsu is 1320 meters

Closest cities: Ishikari, Iburi

Most recent volcanic activity: B crater, southwestern side of lava dome, rise from 100 C° to about 500 C° in autumn of 2003

Most likely volcano hazards: Pyroclastic explosion, lava flows, ash fallout

Another fact about this volcano: Tarumai-san is known for its active creation and destruction within the south east rim summit crater Shikotsu. With lava domes and layers of ash, Tarumai-san's pyroclastic flows extend almost to the Pacific coast. Tarumai-san was part of Hokkaido's largest eruptions in 1667 and 1739.

Usu-zan

Characteristics: Stratovolcano

Volcano #: 0805-03=

Location: Hokkaido Prefecture

Elevation: 737 meters, (2,418 feet)

Closest cities: Iburi

Most recent volcanic activity: September 2001: Very minor phreatic explosions

Most likely volcano hazards: lava flows and domes, pyroclastic flows, tephra, lahars

Another fact about this volcano: Usu-zan has strong earthquakes and has developed new features such as a cryptodome and a parasitic volcano named Showa Shinzan. From March 31 to May 2000, phreatomagmatic and phreatic eruptions with ash fallout occurred. 11,000 people were temporarily evacuated by helicopter, bus, and boat from around Lake Toya.

Komaga-Take

Characteristics: Stratovolcano

Volcano #: 0805-02=

Location: Hokkaido Prefecture

Elevation: 1131 meters, (3,711 feet)

Closest cities: Hakodate, Oshima

Most recent volcanic activity: Intermittently, September to November, 2000: Phreatic eruptions and ash fallout.

Most likely volcano hazards: Ash, plinian or phreatic eruption

Another fact about this volcano: Hokkaido Koma-Ga-Take is known for its explosive phreatic eruptions of pumice flows and other debris. A debris avalanche in 1640 caused a tsunami in Uchiura Bay killing 700 people. The plinian eruption in 1929 caused 2 fatalities, burned or buried 1,915 homes.

Honsu: Main Island

Asama-Yama

Characteristics: Complex Volcano

Volcano #: 0803-11=

Location: Gumma and Nagano Prefectures

Elevation: 2568 meters, (8,425 feet)

Closest cities: Nagano (Olympic games)

Most recent volcanic activity: September 1, 2004: Moderate volcanic eruptions with ash fallout

Most likely volcano hazards: lava flows and domes, pyroclastic flows, tephra, lahars

Another fact about this volcano: In the 1940s, sporadic volcanic eruptions killed more than a two dozen fatalities. The lava and pyroclastic flows of 1783 burned, wrecked or washed away 1,242 homes that summer and caused 1,151 deaths. The damage was great since the flows effected the Tone River. The other largest historical flow was in 1108.

Fuji-san

Characteristics: Stratovolcano, pyroclastic dome, lava flow

Location: Shizuoka and Yamanashi Prefectures

Elevation: 3776 meters, (12,388 feet)

Closest cities: Fuji-Yoshida and several others

Most recent volcanic activity: 16 Dec 1707 to late Dec: Plinian eruptions on the south-eastern flank (Hoei Crater): Pumice, scoria, lapilli and ash fallout.

Most likely volcano hazards: Inactive

Another fact about this volcano: As the highest mountain in Japan, Fuji is classified as a dormant volcano.

Izu Island Chain

Izu Oshima

Characteristics: Stratovolcano

Volcano #: 0840-01=

Location: Izu Islands

Elevation: 764 meters, (2,507 feet)

Closest cities: Tokyo

Most recent volcanic activity: October 4, 1990: Minor eruption, ash fallout and crater formed.

Most likely volcano hazards: Strombolian eruptions, scoria fall, lava flows

Another fact about this volcano: Izu Oshima is the largest of all Izu Islands, lies 120km away from Tokyo on the Pacific Ocean. The 100-200 year repeated eruptions have caused several craters to be scattered over the sides on the volcano. The most notable eruption on November 21-23, 1986 caused 10,000 people to evacuate to the mainland to avoid the explosions from older more dormant craters.

Ryukyu and Kyushu Islands

Unzen-dake

Characteristics: Stratovolcano or Complex volcano

Volcano #: 0802-10=

Location: Nagasaki Prefecture

Elevation: 1486 meters, (4,875 feet)

Closest cities: Shimabara, Nagasaki

Most recent volcanic activity: February to May 1996: Minor pyroclastic flows.

Most likely volcano hazards: Pyroclastic and lava flows, Lahar

Another fact about this volcano: On November 17, 1990, Fugen-dake (part of the volcano complex) erupted after 198 years and has had intermittent activity ever since. Historically, the collapse of the Mayu-yama lava dome caused debris avalanches and tsunamis that killed an estimated 15,000 people on May 21, 1792. It is still remembered as Japan's worst volcanic disaster and officials have spent millions in "countermeasures" for a major collapse or lahar flow.

Aso-san

Characteristics: Stratovolcano and pyroclastic dome, Caldera

Volcano #: 0802-11=

Location: Kumamoto Prefecture

Elevation: 1592 meters, (5,223 feet)

Closest cities: Takamori

Most recent volcanic activity: 14 Apr 2005: Very minor eruptive activity: Minor ash fallout.

Most likely volcano hazards: pyroclastic, ash fallout, and strombolian lava flows

Another fact about this volcano: As one of Japan's most active volcano, more than ten volcanic cones make up this the world's large crater (114 km). Due to the pyroclastic flows and gas emissions, fatalities have occurred in 1997. The summit crater of Naka-dake is accessible by toll road and cable car, and is one of Kyushu's most popular tourist destinations.

Sakura-jime

Characteristics: Stratovolcano

Volcano #:0802-08=

Location: Kagoshima Prefecture

Elevation: 1117 meters, (3,665 feet)

Closest cities: Kagoshima

Most recent volcanic activity: 2006 to present: Eruption plumes of ash reaching 15,000 ft.

Most likely volcano hazards: Ash fallout and lahars

Another fact about this volcano: The volcano once formed an island and connected with the mainland in 1914. As a result of the lava flows, pumice and pyroclastic flows, the tides in the surrounding bay have changed.